

DRAFT – Fishery Agency Goals and Objectives for the BDCP – DRAFT

Over-arching Goal: Recover at-risk species and rehabilitate and restore natural processes to achieve long-term ecological sustainability of the Bay-Delta estuary and its associated watersheds with the ability of the system to accommodate change and maintain itself with minimal intervention.

The following goals and objectives represent the interests of the fish agencies. These reflect goals and objectives taken from the *Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration* (2000) with some modification (in italics) to refocus on the physical and ecological processes in the Delta which affect the ability of the ecosystem to function and support at-risk species.

1. Achieve recovery of at-risk native species in the Delta and Suisun Bay and tributaries. *Primary emphasis will be placed on POD species, anadromous salmonids, and other species included in the BDCP.*
2. Rehabilitate natural processes in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed, with minimal human intervention, to support natural aquatic and associated terrestrial biotic communities and habitats, to favor the native species of those communities. *Primary emphasis will be placed on ecological processes that support POD species, anadromous salmonids, and other species included in the BDCP.*
3. Maintain and/or enhance populations of selected species for sustainable commercial and recreational harvest, consistent with the other ERP goals.
4. Protect and restore functional habitat types in the Bay-Delta Estuary and its watershed for ecological values. *Primary emphasis will be placed habitats that support POD species, anadromous salmonids, and other species included in the BDCP.*
5. Prevent the establishment of additional non-native invasive species and reduce the negative ecological impacts of currently established species.
6. Improve and or maintain water and sediment quality conditions that fully support healthy and diverse ecosystems.

The overriding consideration in developing the conservation strategy is whether or not these objectives can be achieved through the maintenance and operations of the existing system of infrastructure, or re-evaluating to look at alternative approaches that may allow natural physical and biological processes to be re-established. The main impediment to re-establishment of natural physical and biological processes is the use of the system as part of the water conveyance system. Such alternatives would have to provide patterns of flow through the tributaries and into and out of the Bay-Delta that resemble historical patterns and allow natural physical processes to operate. Protection and restoration of functional habitat is needed to re-establish the biological productivity of the system in conjunction with those physical processes.